approved outlay or the total expenditure under the Plan is less than the total approved/revised outlay whichever is more.

MOU between CEA and Private Sector Companies

2530. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) have been signed between the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) and the Private sector companies to set up power plants in the country;

(b) if so, the number of power plants proposed to be set up by private sector, in collaboration with the CEA;

(c) whether the project reports have been submitted to Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to finalise those project reports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) No, Sir,

(b) to (e) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

Slowing down of Oil Exploration by ONGC

2531. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ONGC has slowed down oil exploration in different parts of the country, stating the details of exploration done during the last three years;

(b) whether the ONGC proposes any new foreign collaboration for exploration and production of oil; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir. During the last three years, ONGC has done both onshore & offshore exploration in various parts of the country and in the process of exploration 2,43,975 std. line kms (SLK) of 2D + 3D seismic survey data were acquired and about 1431.37 thousand meters of exploratory drilling was carried out through 574 wells.

In addition to above exploration efforts, ONGC is also participating in the exploration work being carried out in various blocks/fields awarded to private/joint venture companies under the terms of various Production Sharing Contracts to the extent of its participating interest.

(b) and (c) The details of bids received under the Seventh and Eighth Exploration rounds, Joint Venture Exploration Programme and Second offer of discovered fields which are under consideration of the Government of India are given below:—

Exploration Rounds	No. of bids received	No. of blocks for which bids received
Seventh Round	12	10
Eighth Round	33	19
Joint Venture Exploration Programme	22	7
Discovered fields	No. of bids received	No. of fields for which bids received
Second offer	52	20